

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [Matt Kales](#)
Subject: Re: reviewing GSG correspondence to states before we finalize recommendation to Dir
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 12:01:48 PM

Matt

What is the date on the OR comments please?

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 2, 2013, at 4:30 PM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi, Noreen.

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> Per your below, we have identified and packaged (attached) pertinent
> correspondence re: FWS "approval" of state plans. Please find attached the
> following items:

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> 1. Sec. Salazar's 12/11 letter to Governors re:

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> 2. FWS 05/07/08 letter to WY re: that state's core area strategy

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> 3. FWS 4/10/13 letter to ID re: that state's plan

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> 4. FWS formal comments to ODFW Commission on that state's planning
> efforts (see section re: FWS perspective on OR's plan)

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> 5. An updated status report for state planning efforts (note we are
> still waiting on updates from WA, ND, CA and NV).

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> 6. A draft BP re: the approval issue

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> We believe this captures our formal communications to states on this issue
> to date, but will advise you if we identify additional items. As you review
> item 6, the internal BP on this issue, we recommend including some
> additional language that points up what we believe to be at the core of
> this issue, namely that *states,* *in seeking regulatory certainty, are
> looking to us to approve plans in the same context we approve state plans
> for species currently listed under the Act, e.g., to support a delisting
> effort, when in fact sage-grouse are currently a state trust resource and
> therefore we don't have the authority at this time to approve a plan in
> such a way it would provide regulatory certainty for the states. It follows
> it is essential we clarify this issue as soon as possible with state
> leadership so they have a full and accurate understanding of the purpose of
> our review, which is not to approve but to review and determine if we can
> support a state plan in the context of our analysis. Further, we think that
> we can and should go one step past that clarification and identify for the
> state a vehicle by which they can demonstrate, in a qualitative way(s), how

> the measures in their plans will inform our analysis, specifically our PECE
> process. *

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> If the above language – or at least the concept - works, we'll incorporate
> it into the next iteration of the BP.

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> Beyond that, please let me know if you need additional materials to inform
> the conversation with the Director on this issue in advance of the 5/17
> telecon w/the SGTF. Thanks.

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> Matt

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> *From:* Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>]

> *Sent:* Monday, April 29, 2013 7:52 AM

> *To:* Matt Kales

> *Cc:* Michael Thabault; nicole_alt@fws.gov; pat deibert

> *Subject:* reviewing GSG correspondence to states before we finalize
> recommendation to Dir

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> Matt,

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> Can you assist the ES program in the following:

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> Gather any pertinent correspondence (beginning with any official notes from
> the December 2011 Secy Salazar meeting in Cheyenne and any letters the Secy
> sent right after that meeting), that speak to or allude to the degree to
> which the Service would “approve” state plans.

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> We need to review what we have put in writing on this topic over that last
> two years and what we have already sent to states. I would like that
> review to inform our recommendation to the Director, so please also include
> in the packet you prepare for me the letters we have sent to WY and the
> letters we have sent to ID. I am attaching here the ones I already am
> aware of. I didn't find these on the sharepoint, but maybe I am just not
> looking in the right place. If they are not there, will you please make
> sure a folder is established for state plan correspondence?

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> I need this by next Friday 5/3 at the latest, but would value it sooner if
> you all can make that happen, so that we can have a good dialogue with the

> Director before the 5/17 SGTF teleconf on this topic. All, please holler
> if you have questions.
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> Thanks,
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> Noreen
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> Noreen Walsh
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> Regional Director
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> Mountain-Prairie Region
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> U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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> 303 236 7920
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> *The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: * *We
> provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to
> ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all
> people.*
> <Ltr from Salazar to Governors (December 2011) Greater Sage Grouse.pdf>
> <05-07-08_Letter to Ryan Lance.pdf>
> <CLBO GRSG FWS response letter 4_10_13.pdf>
> <FWSSage-grouse-position ODFW Commission testimony 1.doc>
> <Status of Sage-grouse Planning Efforts (May 2013) (2).docx>
> <State plans bp 4-24-13 rev.doc>